

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 29, 2004. Claims 4, 7, 17, 18, 27-30, 33-36, 38-41 and 42-53 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 20, 32, and 37 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 4, 27, 33, 38, 42, 45, 48 and 51, the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 7, 17, and 18 have been amended, among other things, to depend from Claim 4. Claims 28-30 have been amended, among other things, to depend from Claim 27. Claims 34-36 have been amended, among other things, to depend from Claim 33, and Claims 39-41 have been amended, among other things, to depend from Claim 38. Claims 42-53 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 4, 18, 27, 30, 33, 36, 38, and 41 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claims 4, 27, 33, and 38 have been so rewritten and are now believed to be in condition for allowance. As noted above, the dependency of Claims 7, 17, 18, 28-30, 34-36, and 39-41 have been amended to depend from one of allowable Claims 4, 27, 33, or 38. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 7, 17, 18, 28-30, 34-36, and 39-41 are now in condition for allowance. Further, new independent Claims 42, 45, 48 and 51 include the allowable subject matter of Claim 18, 30, 36, and 41, respectively, and are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 17, 28, 29, 34, 35, 39, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,058,115 (*Sawyer*).


For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that Claims 7, 17, 28, 29, 34, 35, 39, and 40 are in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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